

DO

FR-4915-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[Docket No. AB 1234]

New Hampshire Central Railroad, Inc.—Discontinuance of Service Exemption—  
Between Littleton and Bethlehem, N.H.

New Hampshire Central Railroad, Inc. (NHCR) filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 C.F.R. pt. 1152 subpart F—Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service to discontinue service over approximately 6.86 miles of railroad line (the Line), between milepost C 113 (station 995+66) at Littleton, N.H., and milepost C 119.86 (station 1359+77), at Bethlehem, N.H. The Line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 03561 and 03574.<sup>1</sup>

NHCR has certified that: (1) no local traffic has moved over the Line for at least two years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the Line; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line either is pending before the Surface Transportation Board or any U.S. District Court or has been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 C.F.R. § 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

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<sup>1</sup> On May 12, 2015, NHCR filed an amendment clarifying the territory, the total mileage, and the zip codes involved in the Notice of Exemption.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the discontinuance shall be protected under Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. § 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA) to subsidize continued rail service has been received, this exemption will become effective on June 30, 2015 (50 days after the filing of the exemption), unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues and formal expressions of intent to file an OFA to subsidize continued rail service under 49 C.F.R. § 1152.27(c)(2)<sup>2</sup> must be filed by June 8, 2015.<sup>3</sup> Petitions to reopen must be filed by June 18, 2015, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001.

A copy of any petition filed with the Board should be sent to NHCR's representative: Jack E. Dodd, Rail Business Consultant, 73 Bishop St., Saint Albans, VT 05478.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

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<sup>2</sup> Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which is currently set at \$1,600. See 49 C.F.R. § 1002.2(f)(25).

<sup>3</sup> Because this is a discontinuance proceeding and not an abandonment, interim trail use/rail banking and public use conditions are not appropriate.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at  
“[WWW.STB.DOT.GOV](http://WWW.STB.DOT.GOV).”

Decided: May 26, 2015.

By the Board, Rachel D. Campbell, Director, Office of Proceedings.